

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Case No. 13-529V

Filed: August 30, 2016

(Not to be published)

MEGAN MORGAN,

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Petitioner,

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v.

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Decision on Damages; Human
Papillomavirus Vaccine;
Ulcerative Colitis.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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Thomas S. Reavely, Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C., Des Moines, IA for petitioner.

Darryl R. Wishard, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC for respondent.

DECISION ON DAMAGES¹

Gowen, Special Master:

On July 31, 2013, Megan Morgan (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² [the “Vaccine Act” or “Program”]. Petitioner alleged that she developed ulcerative colitis as a result of receiving a human papillomavirus vaccine (“HPV”) on August 9, 2010. On December 10, 2010, the undersigned issued a ruling on entitlement finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation.

¹ Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this ruling on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will delete such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

On August 29, 2016, respondent filed a proffer on an award of compensation, indicating that petitioner has agreed to compensation in the amount of \$800,000.00, to be paid to petitioner only, for future care expenses (\$100,000.00), loss of earnings (\$465,469.40), pain and suffering (\$225,000.00), and past unreimburseable expenses (\$9,530.60). Pursuant to the terms in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner the following compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a):**

- 1. A lump sum payment of \$800,000.00, representing compensation for future care expenses (\$100,000.00), loss of earnings (\$465,469.40), pain and suffering (\$225,000.00), and past unreimburseable expenses (\$9,530.60), in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Megan Morgan.**

The Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Thomas L. Gowen
Thomas L. Gowen
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.

C. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$225,000.00 in past and future pain and suffering. Petitioner agrees.

D. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents her expenditure of past unreimbursable expenses related to her vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$9,530.60. Petitioner agrees.

E. Medicaid Lien

Petitioner represents that there are no outstanding Medicaid liens against her.

F. Guardianship

Because petitioner is a competent adult, evidence of guardianship is not required.

III. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below, and request that the Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:¹

A lump sum payment of **\$800,000.00**, representing compensation for future care expenses (\$100,000.00), loss of earnings (\$465,469.40), pain and suffering (\$225,000.00), and past unreimbursable expenses (\$9,530.60), in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

BENJAMIN C. MIZER
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future care expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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Dated: August 29, 2016